



Paul R. LePage
Governor, State of Maine

Paul K. Vestal, Chair
Edwin P. Chester, Esq. Vice Chair

Maine Juvenile Justice Advisory Group

MINUTES
December 7, 2011

I. Roll Call:

Present: Richard Brown, Ned Chester, Abigail Comee-McCourt, Jim Foss, Jacinda Goodwin, Margaret Longworth, Dan Nichols, Jonathan Shapiro, Barry Stoodley, Christine Thibeault, Paul Vestal, and Patrick Walsh

Absent: Mark Boger, Dalene Dutton, Denise Giles, Jamie Johnson, Charles LaVerdiere, Randall Liberty, Joan McDonald, Hannah McMullen, and Doug Patrick

Staff: Kathryn McGloin, Juvenile Justice Specialist; Ryan Andersen, Compliance Monitor; Noël Bonam, DMC Coordinator

Guests: Deb Friedman, Department of Education; Mark Rubin and Carmen Dorsey, USM Muskie School

Paul Vestal, JJAG Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and welcomed JJAG members and guests. Paul then asked members to introduce themselves and introduced Deb Friedman as the DOE stand-in until Shelley Reed's position is filled.

II. Minutes:

The minutes for the October 2011 JJAG meeting were approved.

Motion: To approve the October 26, 2011 Minutes

Moved: Dan/Jim seconded

Action: Approved

III. Chair Report – Paul Vestal, Jr.:

Paul spoke about Dr. Ross Greene's Lives in the Balance Conference in November and remarked that it was highly attended. He mentioned the number of educators in attendance and that Corrections Commissioner Ponte also attended. Paul described it as an "excellent" conference. He announced to the group that the JJAG was awarded the coveted Trail Blazer Award. The DOC Associate Commissioner, Barry Stoodley, and the State of Maine were also awarded. Anne Haskell accepted the award for the State. A video Of Collaborative Problem Solving was shown.

Paul announced that OJJDP recognized Maine's Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) compliance plan as exemplary and it has been selected as one of the nine models they plan to share across the country.

Dalene Dutton is now the Federal Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice northeast region representative.

Paul and Kathryn wrote to Senators Collins and Snowe and Congressmen Michaud and Pingree on behalf of the JJAG requesting them to support our request not to cut juvenile justice funding. Our Senators have voted as we suggested in the past.

Membership dues to the Northeast Region Coalition for Juvenile Justice are due. Paul asked for a vote on the \$100.00 dues which enable our region to help support regional meetings and conferences.

Motion: To pay the \$100.00 in dues to CJJ New England

Moved: Christine/Margaret seconded

Action: Approved

IV. Juvenile Justice Specialist Report – Kathryn McGloin:

Kathryn commented that she was pleased the motion to pay the dues was approved and then briefly explained how some of that money is used. Kathryn announced she is looking for an intern for the spring semester and that she has contacted Thomas College about possibly finding one there. She informed the JJAG that due to the Federal Transparency Act her federal reporting duties have changed slightly. There is no final word on funding at this time, but we know Title V funding will be allocated for Tribal youth programs and Title II funding will be cut. Due to the language in the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Maine may not be affected. Christine asked if there was word on possible EUDL funding cuts, and Kathryn replied she was not sure and would look into it.

Kathryn reported the OJJDP's new rule on purchasing refreshments for meetings and conferences. There are limits now that essentially disallow refreshments. No Federal funds may be used to purchase food. This will have an affect on afterschool programs. There is a lengthy process by which we request approval to serve food at conferences and meetings. Margaret commented that the Good Shepherd Food Bank is a good resource for finding low-budget snacks. There was another comment about North Center Foods possibly donating food.

Regarding the RFP, Kathryn explained that Spurwink had officially appealed their award denial. Their proposal was disqualified because they did not include Memorandums of Understanding with their proposal. The Division of Purchases had not yet reviewed and approved our action so they asked us to review the Spurwink proposal a second time. The review team found the same omission and they were disqualified. Spurwink has until December 12, 2011 to file another appeal. If they do not Penquis CAP will be awarded as soon as possible.

V. Compliance Monitor Report – Ryan Andersen

Ryan announced that Boothbay Harbor is no longer considered a secure holding facility which he considers good because it reduces liability. He went on to describe the OJJDP policy which requires him to have an evacuation plan for all significant data and the most recent monitoring annual report. Ryan reported that he has backed up all the required information on a disk and that it is clearly marked as the evacuation disk. Ryan reported that he has created a tentative visit schedule for 2012 and that he considered such factors as weather, trends in monthly population reports, seasonal officers and locations, and so forth in creating the schedule.

Ryan described that the number of violations to date for this year is low, with six jail removal violations, two Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO) violations (holding juveniles who have committed a status offense) and no sight and sound separation violations. Ryan stated he believes this will leave a good impression on OJJDP. Ryan distributed a handout that contained information on possible reasons why such violations are occurring. Christine asked Ryan about the spread of departments that have committed the violations. Ryan responded by saying that the jail removal violations typically happened in the county jails while most of the DSO violations happened in police departments. He clarified that there was no one jail or department committing a large amount of violations.

VI. DMC Coordinator Report – Noël Bonam and Ned Chester

Noël reported on the most recent Strategic Planning meeting held at Long Creek Youth Development Center (LCYDC). He is appreciative of the large turnout it received. Youth detained at LCYDC also took part in the meeting which Noël described as extremely helpful. Noël reported that two areas were identified as needing significant work: diversions and families/communities. Noël explained that the notice letters sent to families of youth who are referred to a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) can be found to be confusing and use a lot of technical jargon that makes it difficult for families to fully grasp the implications of the situation. He went on to say that youth in meeting reported sometimes falsifying information to police officers because they thought it would make it go away. Noël reported that a sub-committee from the Cumberland County Committee will be tasked with looking deeper into the diversion problems, and that he is looking into training area police departments further in the diversion process. He went on to discuss the possibility of JCCOs hosting trainings for families and communities about diversion and the overall juvenile justice system, rewriting the letter that is sent to families regarding a youth's diversion, and the idea of having cultural liaisons that aren't strictly interpreters.

Christine added that there were also discussion at the meeting about

transportation and schedule problems parents/guardians might have, and ways to work around that. Noël continued that they had discussed JCCOs meeting parents in more convenient places and possibly outside of normal 9am-5pm hours.

Noël reported that the national DMC Coordinator meeting emphasized using the Effective Police Interactions with Youth (EPIY) training. (Members may recall that the JJAG has funded training of trainers and we now have nine EPIY trainers.) He stated that he, Ryan, and Kathryn would be meeting later to discuss further EPIY training in the state and that he and Jonathan Shapiro are already working on implementing the training at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

Jonathan added that he has been in touch with the Criminal Justice Academy curriculum coordinators and is waiting to hear back regarding implementing the EPIY training as mandatory for all police officers for the next two years. It is his hope that it will be a standard in the MCJA curriculum after that.

Noël discussed the future of the Multi-Cultural Youth Group at LCYDC, and that he is hoping to bring back Pious Ali, who has done similar work at LCYDC and is well liked by the youth, to lead the Youth Group meetings. Noël expressed his hope of the JJAG will partly fund Pious' work, which would be a total of \$2,400, perhaps with a matching a grant. Noël mentioned that it might be worthwhile to have several members of the DMC Committee to be trained as trainers in the Undoing Racism workshop techniques so that more people in the state can be trained without the costs normally accrued by trainers from out of state. He concluded by sharing that OJJDP had recognized Maine's DMC work nationally.

Kathryn added that the police officer interviews for our DMC research had been completed at all three police departments (Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook). The juvenile records review will start the next week. The next phase of the process will be interviewing families on their experience with the juvenile justice system. Noël added that they had also thought it might be beneficial to interview JCCOs.

Christine asked how the funding of Pious would work. Kathryn answered that the JJAG did have the funds to compensate Pious and that she would look into the best way to do so.

Noël stated that perhaps using LCYDC youth in the reentry process to talk to currently detained youth may be possible. Barry asked about how schools were being included in our with DMC work, and brought up "Breaking Schools' Rules," a research publication. Noël said his hope is to bring Family Crisis Services into the loop, but there hasn't been a plan developed yet of how to bring in schools.

VII: Muskie School of Public Service – Carmen Dorsey and Mark Rubin

Carmen introduced herself as the Director of the Maine Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), and Mark as the Chief Research Director at the SAC. She explained they were attending the meeting to share the Maine Crime Victimization Survey and the potentially upcoming Juvenile Justice Data Book.

Mark introduced the Maine Crime Victimization Survey, presented the key findings from the research, and conducted a question and answer discussion at the end of the presentation.

Carmen explained that the purpose of a Juvenile Justice Data Book would be to compile many years worth of data to decipher trends and analyze them. Carmen stated that the SAC had been awarded a grant to develop a 2012 Juvenile Justice Data Book.

VIII: Committee/Department Reports

Legislative Committee: Christine updated the group on the conference that was held the previous week regarding juvenile competency to stand trial and the new competence statute. Ned discussed a new bill that is going to be introduced by Rep. Anne Haskell that would amend the statute regarding juvenile's public driving records.

Department of Corrections: Barry updated the group about the Muskie School's work regarding recidivism and that they are developing a system to track diversions, that TARGET training is expanding, and CPS is being reinvigorated and hopefully Corrections employees will be trained as trainers. Barry discussed the reorganization of the Division of Juvenile Services, the focus on reentry services, and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives (JDAI) focus on rethinking shock sentences. Barry also mentioned THRIVE and a continued partnership with them. He would like to have JJAG meeting with Thrive and Michael Thompson, the primary author of "Breaking Schools' Rules."

Department of Public Safety: Jonathan mentioned the updated plan to the MCJA regarding EPIY training and that he is still focused on working restorative practices and getting it started in some police departments. He shared that the idea of CPS spreading amongst police departments. Jonathan's report of a one-year analysis of "An Improved Police Response to Juveniles in Crisis" had been posted to the International Association of Chiefs of Police's website.

Department of Education: Deb shared that LD 1503 is a carry-over bill on school suspensions and expulsions that is currently being looked at by the legislature. She also shared that the DOE is working on mandates regarding restraint and seclusion in schools and offering support and training schools in academic and behavioral interventions.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

The next meeting will take place on January 25, 2011 at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.